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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,964	10/03/2007	Qing Kelvin Lu	US040033US2	8970
24737 7590 04/15/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			EXAMINER SONG, HOON K	
			ART UNIT 2882	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/15/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/596,964	LU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hoon Song	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/30/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Headings for each section of the specification are missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richardson et al. (US 2002/0146072A1).

Regarding claim 1, Richardson teaches an assembly comprising:

an x-ray tube including: an envelope (200) which defines an evacuated chamber in which x-rays are generated;

a housing (202) which surrounds at least a portion of the envelope; a cooling system (32, 32') which circulates a coolant through the housing to remove heat from the x-ray tube, the cooling system including:

a pump (308); and

a flow sensor system (500) which is responsive to a pressure difference across the pump (paragraph 45, 72).

Regarding claim 3, Richardson teaches the cooling system further includes:

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a recirculating fluid flow path including a first fluid line which connects the housing with an upstream end of the pump and a second fluid line which connects a downstream end of the pump with the housing, the flow sensor system being responsive to a pressure difference between the first fluid line and the second fluid line (figure 4).

Regarding claim 13, Richardson teaches a method for controlling operation of an x-ray tube, the method comprising:

circulating a cooling fluid through a housing (202) and over the x-ray tube with a pump (308);

removing heat from the cooling fluid which has circulated through the housing; and
determining a flow rate of the cooling fluid (paragraph 45), including:

determining a pressure difference across the pump or a function which correlates with the pressure difference, and determining the flow rate from the pressure difference or function (paragraph 72).

Regarding claim 14, Richardson teaches in the event that the flow rate drops below a predetermined minimum value, reducing power to the x-ray tube (paragraph 74).

Regarding claim 15, Richardson teaches determining a temperature of the cooling fluid (paragraph 45).

Regarding claim 16, Richardson teaches determining a temperature difference (paragraph 45).

Regarding claim 17, Richardson teaches determining a thermal loading condition of the x-ray tube from the determined temperature and flow rate (paragraph 45).

Regarding claim 18, Richardson teaches in response to the determined thermal loading condition, controlling at least one of:

operating power of the x-ray tube; operating time of the x-ray tube; selectable scan protocols; and, a cooling time prior to subsequent operating of the x-ray tube (paragraph 45 and 46).

Regarding claim 19, Richardson teaches a system for removing heat from an associated x-ray tube comprising:

a fluid flow path which carries a cooling fluid to at least a portion of the associated x-ray tube, and removes heat therefrom;

a pump (308) which circulates the cooling fluid through the fluid flow path;

means (500 or paragraph 45) for determining a pressure difference across the pump; and

means (paragraph 45) responsive to the determined pressure difference for controlling operation of the x-ray tube.

Regarding claim 20, Richardson teaches the determining means includes:

a means for measuring a pressure difference across the pump; and a means for determining cooling fluid flow rate from the determined pressure difference (paragraph 45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4-10 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson in view of Walton et al. (US 2005/0159735A1).

Regarding claim 2, Richardson fails to teach the flow sensor system is electric sensor system.

Walton teaches a pump control system having electric control sensors (paragraph 55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the mechanical flow control system of Richardson with the electrical control system as taught by Walton, since the electric system would provide more accurate control of the system.

Regarding claim 4, Richardson as modified by Walton teaches the flow sensor system 500 detects a first pressure upstream of the pump and a second pressure downstream of the pump.

Regarding claim 5, Walton teaches a processor which receives a signal from the flow sensor system correlated with the pressure difference, the processor determining a flow rate of cooling fluid therefrom (paragraph 55).

Regarding claim 6, Richardson as modified by Walton teaches a control means, the control means controlling operation of the x-ray tube in the event that the determined flow rate is below a preselected minimum level (paragraph 72-76 Richardson, paragraph 55 Walton).

Regarding claim 7, Richardson as modified by Walton teaches a control means responsive to the pressure difference controlling at least one of:

operating power of the x-ray tube; operating time of the x-ray tube; selectable scan protocols; and a cooling period prior to subsequent operating of the x-ray tube (paragraph 72-76 Richardson, paragraph 55 Walton).

Regarding claim 8, Richardson fails to teach a temperature sensor (307) which senses a temperature of circulating coolant in at least one of the housing and the cooling system.

Walton teaches a temperature sensor (307, paragraph 55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the mechanical flow control system of Richardson with a temperature sensor as taught by Walton, since the temperature sensor would provide more accurate control of the system.

Regarding claims 9 and 21-22, Walton teaches a processor 700 which receives signals from the temperature sensor and flow sensor system and determines an indication of thermal loading or remaining thermal capacity of the cooling system (figure 4).

Regarding claim 10, Richardson teaches the processor determines a cooling period, based on the determined indication, x-ray tube power, operating time, and duty cycle of a planned scan protocol to ensure that the x-ray tube is capable of performing the planned protocol without overheating (figure 4).

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richardson.

Regarding claims 11-12, Richardson fails to teach CT-scanner including the assembly of claim 1.

CT system is known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to adapt the x-ray system in known CT system, since it would provide efficient CT system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is (571) 272-2494. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 7 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on (571) 272 - 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hoon Song/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2882

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